Time-Critical Removal Action To Begin at the Ogallala Ground Water Site Operable Unit #2 Ogallala, Nebraska

EPA Region 7

December 2002

INTRODUCTION

On January 6, 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin work on a time-critical removal action. EPA will use chemical oxidation to reduce the levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in the shallow ground water moving from the Tip Top Dry Cleaners (Tip Top) facility. EPA will hold a public availability session at Ogallala City Hall on January 6, 2003, in order to provide information and answer any questions citizens might have about this action.

BACKGROUND

The Tip Top is located at 116 W. 5th Street, Ogallala, Nebraska and is known as Operable Unit #2.

In 1989, the Nebraska Department of Health discovered contamination in Ogallala's water supply wells during routine sampling. The City has since installed a new well field.

The Ogallala Ground Water Site was placed on the National Priorities List in December, 1994, making it eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. A total of five potential sources of ground water contamination, including Tip Top, have been identified. Several actions have already been taken to address contamination at other parts of the Site.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION

EPA will hold a public availability session to provide information and answer questions on the removal action at the Tip Top Dry Cleaners. The public availability session will be held:

Monday, January 6, 2003
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Ogallala City Hall
411 E. 2nd Street
Ogallala, Nebraska

For more information please contact:

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THE CONTAMINATION

Soil contaminated with PCE has been found at Tip Top. PCE is commonly used in dry-cleaning fluid, spot removers, and degreasers. The PCE-contaminated soil is thought to be a source of the contamination found in the ground water moving southeast from Tip Top to beyond East G Street.

This time-critical removal will address the ground water contamination next to and down from the source area. EPA is conducting a separate removal action at Tip Top using soil vapor extraction (SVE) to remove the PCE in the soils at the source area.

TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION

A time-critical removal action will quickly address the most contaminated ground water and will reduce the threat to human health and the environment that is posed by vapor migrating into basements and lower levels. It will also stop the spread of PCE.

The objectives of the removal are to:

- quickly reduce the levels of PCE in ground water moving from Tip Top;
- remove the immediate threat to human health and the environment; and
- monitor the effectiveness of the removal action to determine future appropriate actions for restoration of the ground water.

The removal action is anticipated to be completed in less than 12 months.

WHAT ABOUT THE GROUND WATER?

EPA intends to address the remainder of the PCE-contaminated ground water associated with Tip Top. After completion of this time-critical removal action, EPA will further evaluate chemical oxidation as one of the possible options to address the remaining area of PCE-contaminated ground water. At a future date, the public will be notified and asked to comment on a ground water cleanup method.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record file, which is available at the following locations:

Goodall City Library
203 W. A Street
Ogallala, Nebraska

EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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